

Light Brown Apple Moth

The Central Coast counties of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz produce approximately \$4.5 billion in agricultural goods each year. Monterey County alone produces more than 85 crops with a value of \$3.8 billion. We live in a special area, and I'm always keeping an eye on how our farming families are faring.

My seat on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee offers me a unique position to help our farms and farmers. From supporting sustainable agriculture and food safety research to promoting the construction of a state-of-the-art Agriculture Research Station in Salinas, I'm always focused on how best to serve our ag industry.

Bills I have cosponsored during the 111th Congress (2009-2010):

- [H.R. 1869](#) - White House Conference on Food and Nutrition - Directs the president to convene a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition in order to make fundamental policy recommendations on ways to end hunger and improve nutrition in the United States.
- [H.R. 1332](#) - Safe FEAST Act of 2009 - Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to expand the authority of the Health and Human Services Secretary to regulate food, including suspending the registration of a food facility and ordering cessation of distribution, or a recall, of food.
- [H.R. 1324](#) - Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act of 2009 - Requires the Agriculture Secretary to establish science-based nutrition standards for foods served in schools other than foods served under the school lunch or breakfast programs.
- [H.R. 875](#) - Food Safety Modernization Act of 2009 - Creates the Food Safety Administration within the Department of Health and Human Services and assigns all food safety responsibilities to the Administrator of Food Safety.
- [H.R. 669](#) - Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act - Provides procedures for issuance and expansion of a list of nonnative wildlife species approved for importation and a list of nonnative wildlife species that are prohibited.

Key actions taken during the 110th Congress (2007-2008):

- In 2008, after more than 18 months of work, the House and the Senate agreed on a Farm Bill that will fund agriculture, nutrition and conservation programs for five years. Fresh fruit and vegetable farmers were included the Farm Bill for the first time ever, meaning the Central Coast's \$4.5 billion agriculture industry will see some exciting increases in funds directed to research, marketing and nutrition programs.

- The Farm Bill included \$230 million for the newly created Specialty Crop Research Initiative. It also included \$224 million for the Specialty Crop Block Grant program. In addition, the bill provides \$377 million for a variety of pest and disease detection and control programs.